



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Inter-African Affairs: CFA States Meet, Note Economic Improvement

AB1904152596 Ndjamenia Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French 1900 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The franc zone finance ministers' meeting ended here in Ndjamenia this afternoon. It was attended by 14 African ministers from the franc zone, the French finance minister, the French minister delegate for cooperation, as well as the governors of the Central Bank of West African States and the Bank of France. A joint news conference was held at the end of the meeting by Chadian Finance Minister Mahamat Ahmat Alhabo, Ivorian Finance Minister Ni-amien N'Goran, French Finance Minister Jean Arthuis, and French Minister Delegate for Cooperation Jacques Godfrain. The communique that was issued at the end of the meeting said that the ministers examined the economic and financial situation in the franc zone members states, the items on the agenda for the IMF and World Bank annual general meeting, and relations between franc zone member states and the international financial community. The ministers also discussed the franc zone's compliance with the provisions of Article 8 of the IMF statute, progress on regional integration,

and the functioning of the banking system within the franc zone.

Regarding the economic and financial situation within the franc zone, the ministers observed that economic growth has been restored within the franc zone since the CFA [African Financial Community] franc devaluation. They pledged to pursue restructuring and liberalization efforts to enable member states to deal with possible fluctuations in raw material prices and guarantee the budgetary economy of member states. Regarding relations between the franc zone and the international financial community, the ministers observed that economic recovery is under way and balance of payments has improved. They noted that franc zone member states are now in fact complying with the provisions of Article 8 of the IMF statute with a concern to ensure the freedom of the movement of capital for financial transactions. The ministers decided to [words indistinct] the French ministers [words indistinct] through the mechanism of monetary cooperation between France and the franc zone member states [words indistinct] will not (?change) the privileged ties between France and franc zone member states, which is an asset to member states.

Burundi**Burundi: Foreign Minister Condemns Grenade Attack on Red Cross**

EA1904202396 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in English 1745 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Burundi minister for external relations and cooperation, Mr. Venerand Bakevymusaya, has condemned a grenade attack yesterday on the ICRC. He recalled the mission of the ICRC, which provides relief to all the needy persons. He appealed [for] the respect of the red sign.

The minister of external relations and cooperation answered questions related to the Burundian decision to close its border with Zaire:

[Begin recording] [Bakevymusaya] First of all I would like to remind [you] that in Burundian policy we have always [been] privileged to [have a] good relationship between Burundi and our neighbor countries. Now, if we have been obliged to close the border of Zaire, it is because there are important questions about security matters that we had to answer. Now I have been informed, and I got a copy of the letter written by the president of the Republic about this closure of the border. He explicitly said that the border at Gatumba should remain open. Now, the order is one thing, the implementation of the order is another thing, but I am happy to say that the president of the Republic had already appointed a committee to evaluate, to assess the implementation of this decision.

[Unidentified correspondent] We were told that Zaire also responded today by closing its border. Is it true or not?

[Bakevymusaya] Just a few minutes I was talking with the general administration of the immigration and he [as heard] told [me] that the decision is not true. [end recording]

Burundi: ICRC Withdraws Staff Following Grenade Attack

AB1904223596 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program; all of Burner's sentences as heard]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, in Burundi has pulled the last of its staff out of the central town of Gitega. It is the country's second biggest town after the capital Bujumbura. The province has this month been the scene of fighting between Hutu rebels and the Tutsi-dominated Army. The ICRC's decision to quit followed a grenade

attack. On the line to Bujumbura, Robin White asked the ICRC's chief delegate, Patrick Burner, what had happened.

[Begin recording] [Burner] Yesterday night, a grenade was thrown in the area of the residence of the ICRC in Gitega and, following this incident, we had to pull out our team.

[White] Was anybody hurt in this grenade attack?

[Burner] No. Fortunately, I mean, this grenade did not fall finally in the compound, because they missed the aim. So, it is a luck, nobody was injured.

[White] Do you have any idea who did it?

[Burner] No, you know, it is very difficult to know this in this context.

[White] But why should anybody throw a grenade at your compound?

[Burner] I mean, this is a question; but you know, for example, in Burundi, it is always very difficult to convince everybody about the work of the ICRC and we try to make a lot of information dissemination to explain them and to convince everybody about the neutrality and the independence of the ICRC. But you have a small group who are still not sure, maybe, of our activities.

[White] Do you imagine that one of the groups, say, in Burundi does not like you and does not like the work you are doing?

[Burner] It is [words indistinct] to know if they do not like the ICRC or they do not like international organizations. It is very difficult to know what are the reasons. Of course, you know, there was plenty rumor in Burundi and very often, some times, some people think we are not very correct. But we do not know why. I mean it is difficult to know exactly what they think exactly.

[White] Could it be the Army that might have done this?

[Burner] I do not know, but I mean the contact with the army is pretty good, so, I do not think so. I mean, all of us, we have very good contacts with the Army and I cannot imagine this.

[White] Will you still be able to carry on with your operations in the Gitega area, in spite of this?

[Burner] Of course, now, we will continue our activities in all the [words indistinct]. You know, for example, in the region covered by Gitega, these last 10 days, we could assist more than 32,000 people which was just new displaced following the incidents in the area. [end recording]

Burundi: Inter-Party Talks Held Amid Fresh Violence

LD2204225096 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been a fresh wave of violence in Burundi. Several attacks, ambushes, and killings were carried out in various regions of the country over the weekend. Several score people are reported to have been killed.

This latest spate of violence coincides with the start in Tanzania today of negotiations between the two main political parties in Burundi. They aim to prevent the country from drifting into all-out civil war. These negotiations are chaired by former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere. Jean Helene reports:

[Helene] Julius Nyerere did not make any statement at the end of the first day, but reliable sources report that he first received the three delegations separately: that of the nine small Tutsi opposition parties; then that of UPRONA [Party of National Unity and Progress], the main opposition movement; and finally that of FRODEBU [Front for Democracy in Burundi].

It seems that one of the items on the agenda of these talks has to do with the negotiations with the Hutu rebel movement, the Council for the Defense of Democracy, the CNDD. This issue has already divided the government coalition. The parties close to the presidency are not against such talks, while the Tutsi opposition is against it.

Two people were killed in Burundi this weekend, one FRODEBU deputy in Citiboke, and a gendarmerie official, Lieutenant Colonel Zenimana in Bujumbura. His superior denied the version according to which he was killed by his own men by mistake. According to sources close to the CNDD, he was killed by army hardliners because he had publicly suggested that it would be necessary to negotiate with the rebels. Jean Helene, Nairobi, RFI.

[Announcer] UPRONA, the main opposition party in Burundi, today called for the removal of the UN envoy in Bujumbura, (Marc Fagui), whom it accused of favoring a false and harmful stance. end of quote.

The Burundi army today admitted that its troops had carried out human rights abuses against civilians on a number of occasions. Three international human rights observers arrived in Burundi at the weekend. They will have access to the files of 400 soldiers involved in crimes against civilians. That is what the spokesman for the Burundi army has stated.

Burundi: Armed Groups Kill 40 People 20-21 April

AB2204212096 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There has been another bloody weekend in Burundi where at least 40 people were killed in attacks, ambushes, and assassinations in different parts of the country. The most bloody attack took place in Hutovu Commune in southern Burundi, where 28 persons including many children were killed by armed groups. This surge in violence is the focus of discussions on the Burundi crisis, which kicked off today at Mwanza, Tanzania. [passage omitted]

Burundi: Ruling Party MP Murdered on 20 Apr

EA2204141396 Bujumbura ABP in French 0959 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bujumbura, 22 Apr — The Honorable Gerard Gahungu, a FRODEBU [Front for Democracy in Burundi], ruling party deputy, who was elected in Citiboke province, was killed by unidentified people in Ngagara district, Bujumbura, on Saturday, 20 April. The Honorable Gerard Gahungu, a Hutu, had on Saturday, 20 April, gone to Ngarara, where he had been staying before the ethnic cleansing in the districts of the Burundian capital. The group of unidentified people brutally assassinated him after he returned from getting a drink with his former neighbors.

It is worth recalling that the Honorable Gahungu was killed just hours after Colonel Dieudonne Nzeyimana was killed by his own soldiers, according to eyewitnesses.

Burundi: Security Services Still Fighting Bukirasazi Group in Gitega

EA1904165996 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports from Gitega say security forces are still fighting the armed groups in the commune of Bukirasazi. Administration and security officials met yesterday the people of the town of Gitega to discuss the situation. They accused local officials of doing nothing to restore the disturbed areas. They also expressed concern about the issue of displaced persons in the two ethnic groups [Hutu and Tutsi] and the killings of people in the town of Gitega.

For their part, the people of Gitega appealed for the appointment of a new and competent governor of Gitega. I recall that the former governor has fled his office, allegedly fearing [for] his safety.

Central African Republic**Central African Republic: Mutiny Leader Urges
Soldiers to Barracks**

AB2204184496 Paris AFP in French
1640 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 22 Apr (AFP) — Warrant Officer Isidore-Mathurin Dokodo, who represented Central African Republic [CAR] mutineer soldiers at the negotiations with the authorities, today appealed on the radio to those of the mutineers who have not yet returned to their barracks or returned their arms and ammunition to do so. "The situation which brought about the mutiny was resolved Sunday night before everybody at the National Assembly and confirmed by President Ange-Felix Patasse," he said, and called on his comrades "who are still roaming the streets to immediately return all their arms and ammunition in their possession. I call on these lost comrades who did not understand the movement to return to the barracks," Warrant Officer Dokodo, presented as the "coordinator" of the movement.

It is indicated from military sources that a certain number of mutineers, on board 10 vehicles with arms and ammunition, are said to have succeeded in leaving the capital territory.

"Those mutineers who, today, were still shooting in the streets, or those on whom weapons would be found in case of any unannounced checks," would be held "responsible before the international opinion," he stressed and recalled that the aim of the uprising was not to compromise the Constitution, or to trample upon the provisions of the Constitution. The nation's institutions were respected."

According to the CAR Red Cross, the outcome of this mutiny, which started on 18 April by about 100 to 200 soldiers demanding payment of salary arrears, is seven dead and 40 wounded. An earlier report put the death toll at nine.

In spite of the return of calm perceptible today, French and CAR soldiers continued to patrol in the center of the city, particularly areas around the radio station, the presidential palace, and the head of state's residence. Some streets of the capital, notably those near the president's residence, were still not open to traffic by this afternoon. According eyewitness report, an exchange of shots between loyalist forces and last groups of mutineers were heard this morning.

**Central African Republic: Aid Agreement Signed
with France as Crisis Ends**

LD2204225596 Paris Radio France International
in French 2130 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] France this morning welcomed the end of the crisis in the Central African Republic. Paris also welcomed the call for unity and reconciliation made by President Ange-Felix Patasse last night.

You may know that the mutineers put an end to their movement last night after the head of state promised that they would not be prosecuted and that their wage arrears would be paid immediately — they amount to 1 billion Central African francs. Laurent Jaffard reports:

[Jaffard] [passage omitted] A financial agreement was signed with France last Saturday. According to a government source in Bangui, the agreement makes provision for the payment of 700 million Central African francs. Officially, the signing of the agreement had long been in the offing. The least we can say is that it came at the right time.

[Announcer] Today, Monday, it was business as usual on the streets of Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic. French patrols and members of the presidential security guard are still carrying out checks in some strategic areas in the city.

**Central African Republic: Political Activities
Banned Following Mutiny**

AB2304135496 Paris AFP in French
1158 GMT 23 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 23 Apr (AFP) — The Central African Government has suspended all public political and union demonstrations after the mutiny staged by Army soldiers who were demanding the payment of salary arrears, it was learned from an official source.

At an extraordinary cabinet meeting on 22 April, that was presided over by Prime Minister Gabriel Koyanbonou, the government decided the "suspension of all political and union demonstrations until further notice." Charles Massi, the minister of Energy and Mines, and spokesman of the government, said in a radio broadcast.

He said this measure "is aimed at guaranteeing security and public order."

The government asked the defense and interior ministers to ensure that the measure is "strictly applied."

The national radio has also disclosed messages of support sent to Central African President Ange-Felix Patasse, both from foreign heads of state and individuals when the mutiny was over and the situation returned to normal.

Rwanda

Rwanda: Kigali Denies Setting Preconditions on Zairean Plane

EA2104155496 *Kigali Radio Rwanda in English*
0515 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On 7 April 1996, a Zairean passenger aircraft, Boeing 737, landed at Kamembe aerodrome in Cyangugu prefecture on the Rwandese territory.

Under inexplicable circumstances, the relevant Rwandese authorities conducted a routine security check on the passengers who were all found to be legitimate travellers. The Government of Rwanda requested Zairean authorities to make arrangements for the passengers on the plane to be transported back to Zaire. The Zairean Government chose to ignore the request.

The Government of Rwanda is taking formal request to ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] to facilitate the return of the 26 passengers on board. We should also request the diplomatic community in Rwanda to witness the return of the passengers to Zaire.

A technical commission composed of Rwandese and Zairean officials with the International Civil Aviation Organization experts has been set up to establish the state of the aircraft and the parameters of the aerodrome. The facility does not have the capacity to handle the take-off of a Boeing 737.

Other than these initiatives, the government has never imposed any conditions on the aircraft, or made any public statement to that effect. It is therefore irresponsible on the part of a section of the mass media to report that the vice president and minister of defense of the Republic of Rwanda has set preconditions for the return of the Zairean aircraft.

The alleged conditions, reported by Radio France, namely the return of Rwandese Government equipment held by the Government of Zaire and the release of the remains of late President Habyarimana, are simply not true.

The vice president and minister of defense has never at any time or place made any public statement regarding this aircraft.

The Government of Rwanda is satisfied with the way the matter is being handled, particularly after the set-

ting up of the commission. For the Radio France to report imaginary statements and preconditions, is not only defamatory and prejudicial, it also slanderous and libelous, and this calls into question the intentions of such media organizations in our region.

The government statement signed by the spokesman of the Government of Rwanda, minister of information, Jean-Pierre Bizimana.

Rwanda: Ministers in Cameroon To Seek Extradition of Prisoners

BR2304074296 *Brussels LE SOIR in French*
20-21 Apr 96 p 9

[Article by Colette Braeckman: "Will Bagosora Be Extradited?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Rwandan authorities have their eyes fixed on Yaounde and their justice and foreign ministers are at present in the Cameroon capital. The stakes are high: They are seeking to obtain the extradition of 12 Rwandans accused of genocide.

These include important figures such as Colonel Bagosora, currently held in Yaounde's central prison and the subject of an international arrest warrant issued by the Belgian judiciary for failing to come to the aid of the 10 Belgian blue helmets massacred on 7 April 1994 and responsibility in organizing the massacres. Also among them are Ferdinand Nahimana, the founder of Mille Collines radio; Pastor Musabe, one of the financiers of the presidential clan; and Jean-Bosco Barayagwiza, who headed the extremist CDR [Coalition for the Defense of the Republic].

It is the Yaounde Appeal Court which must decide on the fate of these prisoners: Will they be handed over to the Arusha Criminal Tribunal which does not yet even have a cell able to hold them? Will Bagosora be sent to Belgium where a comprehensive case has been prepared against him? Or will the group be handed over to the Rwandan authorities?

A lot is at stake politically for Kigali: Appearance before the national courts of even some of the authors of the genocide would be a great relief to the victims, a sort of catharsis for a public opinion which is exasperated by the fact that, two years after the death of 1 million Rwandans, no criminal has yet been judged.

Furthermore, the trial of some of those in positions of responsibility, which would have a symbolic or "educational" value according to [Foreign and Cooperation] Minister Gasana, would make it possible to lighten the punishment of many of those at present languishing in Rwanda's prisons and who have also not yet been judged.

The survivors of the genocide hope that their torturers will make amends and admit their crimes. But we are a long way from that. The Yaounde detainees, advised by three lawyers, one from the Ivory Coast, one South African, and one Belgian, Luc de Temmerman, have already announced their line of defense: They challenge Kigali justice, considering that it embodies RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] vindictiveness and is no more than the "justice of the victors." Citing the war triggered by the Tutsi refugees in 1990 as being solely responsible for Rwanda's ills, they call for the "rule of the majority" which they claim to represent, denouncing the Clinton Administration's support for the RPF. And as to genocide, there was no such thing, simply legitimate defense....

The Yaounde Appeal Court devoted three minutes to the case on Friday afternoon, but in any event there is no extradition treaty between Cameroon, Rwanda, and Belgium, the final decision resting with President Paul Biya.

Rwanda: Germany Donates Used UNAMIR Equipment

*EA2104154496 Kigali Radio Rwanda in English
0515 GMT 21 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany in Rwanda has issued a statement saying that all German equipment provided to UNAMIR [UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda] should be transferred to the Rwandese Government. The German Government expressed its wish that the materiel should be given to the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Integration. [passage omitted]

The statement further says that although the materiel is used and fairly old, the German Government considers it to be still useful for use in [the] cause of the repatriation of refugees.

Uganda

Uganda: Border With Zaire Reportedly Closed After 7 Apr Attack

EA1904165296 *Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in English 0400 gmt 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Uganda has ordered the closure of its border with Zaire following recent clashes between Ugandan Government forces and rebels of the West Nile Bank Front. Reports from Kampala say units of the Uganda People's defense Forces, UPDF, are making serious patrols on all border entry points to prevent any crossing of people into Uganda.

A UPDF commander, [Lieutenant Colonel] James Kazini [commanding operations in West Nile district], was quoted as saying that Zairean territory was intensively used in an abortive attempt to invade Uganda. Mr. Kazini said a ballistic missile placed by Sudanese troops shelled Ugandan territory from the Zairean area of (Kindu) on 7 April with all bombs falling only meters from the Ugandan barracks in Kiboko [northwestern Uganda]. No deaths or loss of property was reported.

Uganda: Interahamwe Soldiers Launch Cross-Border Attack

AB2204180996 *London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 22 Apr 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With the Ugandan elections less than three weeks away now, there has been a border incursion today by the Interahamwe, the Rwandan Hutu rebels based in Zaire who have been camped in the Goma area near Uganda's western border. Things were already tense following last Wednesday's [17 April] raid by a Ugandan rebel group. Our reporter, Kathy Elliot, is in the western town of Kabale, and on the line, Tom Porteous asked her what information she had about today's raid:

[Begin recording] [Elliot] I had learned that Interahamwe troops, who have been trained in Zairian refugee camps, have crossed over the border from Zaire at Kisoro in Uganda and they came in very early this morning at about 4 AM and surrounded the barracks there.

[Porteous] Do we have any idea of what kind of numbers we are talking about?

[Elliot] No, we have no idea, but it is sufficient to surround the barracks, and there are reports that they have been taking weapons, and several people have been killed.

[Porteous] And what are the Ugandans doing about it? What response has there been?

[Elliot] Well, here in Kabale, we have seen truckloads of Army troops rushing through to go to Kisoro which is about 80 km away from Kabale, and they were also commandeering civilian vehicles and going through [words indistinct] as well. The troops were coming Kabale, the barracks here are empty [words indistinct] there is no troop therefore also coming from Mborara, and the division commander at Mborara, Peter Karim, flew down by helicopter about 2 o'clock this afternoon. And there are reports coming through that more troops will come from Kampala tonight. I also have information that the Rwandan Government has sent in troops, and they say up to 10,000 troops were sent in from Rwanda early this morning.

[Porteous] That would be to help the Ugandans deal with the situation, would it?

[Elliot] That is right. To crush the Interahamwe rebels.

[Porteous] Is there any communication with the border at the moment from where you are?

[Elliot] No, all communications have been cut off. I have been trying to phone the post office, but it is impossible to get through, and the Army communications have been cut off as well. All telephone communications are cut off. [end recording]

Well, to find out what Uganda's NRA [National Resistance Army] government is saying about today's border incursion, Elizabeth Ohene spoke on the line to our reporter, Anna Bozelo, in Kampala:

[Begin recording] [Bozelo] I just talked to the minister of state for defense, (Mama Mbabazi), and he told me that this morning at 6 o'clock, a group of about 20 to 30 rebels attacked a small Army unit near Kisoro town, which is 10 km from the Zairian border. He said that later the rebels commandeered two vehicles, but these were intercepted, and he claimed that the rebels were now retreating in disarray toward the Zairian border. He said that they captured... [pauses] some of the three rebels that they captured they were apparently former Interahamwe soldiers, and that they had apparently come from Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire.

[Ohene] They are saying specifically that these are Rwandese who came in and not Ugandan rebels?

[Bozelo] Yes, definitely.

[Ohene] Now, over the weekend, I think, there is report of another attack also another rebel group, the Western Defense Front. Any news about that?

[Bozelo] The Westerner Bank Front entered Ugandan last Wednesday [17 April]. They are headed by former Idi Amin soldier, Colonel (Djima Oris), and on Saturday, they were apparently ambushed by the Ugandan UPDS [expansion unknown], and the government NEW VISION reports today that 18 rebels have been killed in the ambush, and today, the military said that in fact, the number is 25. They claimed that the rebels are now heading toward the border, and they attribute their success to the fact that the people in the rural districts have been extremely cooperative, and have been helping them track down the rebels.

[Ohene] And the more well-known group that has been attacking consistently, LRA [Lord's Resistance Army], they were also active over the weekend?

[Bozelo] Apparently on Saturday [20 April], about 70 km east of Gulu, they attacked a town there and looted and burned some houses and took some vehicles, but I did not hear any report of anyone being killed.

[Ohene] Are the authorities feeling rather besieged by all this activity?

[Bozelo] They say that they do not feel besieged. They say that they can deal with the situation, but today the NEW VISION, the government paper, reported that they had recalled about 3,000 demobilized soldiers and given them one-year contract, presumably those who are going to be used as part of reinforcement. [end recording]

Uganda: Three Soldiers, 7 'Bandits' Killed in Attack on UPDF

EA2204195496 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 1700 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Defense said this evening [22 April] at 0600 hours, a group of armed bandits attacked a Uganda People's Defense Force [UPDF] detachment at Kisoro [in southwest Uganda near the borders with Rwanda and Zaire] and killed three UPDF soldiers on guard duty, two soldiers' wives, and one child. They tried and failed to break into the armory.

According to Mr. Amama Mbabazi [minister of state for defense], the UPDF counterattacked the bandits, killing seven and capturing three alive. The three vehicles belonging to an NGO [Nongovernmental Organization] which the bandits had commandeered were recaptured. The UPDF is in pursuit of the remnants of the bandit group.

Those captured have so far disclosed that they belong to a group based in Zaire under the leadership of one (Haji Kabiba) and that they had entered Uganda under the cover of darkness through (Gusanza) to attack Kisoro.

The situation in Kisoro is calm and back to normal with the civilian population actively aiding the Army to track down the bandits. The country will be informed of any new development.

Uganda: Army Kills 18, Captures Three Oris Rebels

EA2204114796 Kampala THE NEW VISION in English 22 Apr 96 p1

[By Emmy Allio]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Eighteen rebels of Colonel Juma Oris's West Nile Bank Front were killed and three others captured when they entered into an army ambush at Madi-Okello county in Arua [district, northwestern Uganda, on] Saturday [20 April]. Sources at the fourth division headquarters in Gulu [northwestern Uganda] said yesterday that the local population was helping the army to trace the rebels, who entered the country from Sudan through Aringo county last Wednesday [17 April].

The army also captured 21 SMG [sub-machine-gun] rifles, two LMGs [light machine-guns], two rocket-propelled grenades with 16 fuses, 75 antipersonnel mines and several Sudanese army uniforms. Other equipment captured were [as printed] three 60 mm mortars, four recoilless machine guns [as printed] and four 12.7 mm anti-aircraft guns.

UPDF [Uganda People's Defense Forces] fourth division commanding officer, Brigadier Chefe Ali, said the rebels, estimated to be 500, fled in disarray. The army were following them since last Wednesday. "When they decided to camp, we hit them," he said. "They are being pursued. The civilian population is very helpful to us," Chefe Ali said.

The battle was fought in the forested areas along [the] Ora river close to Arua and Nebbi district borders.

Uganda: About 3,000 Soldiers Recalled Into UPDF

EA2204140396 Kampala THE NEW VISION in English 22 Apr 96 p1

[By Yunusu Abbey]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] About 3,000 soldiers demobilized more than two years ago have been recalled into the Uganda People's Defense Forces [UPDF]. Highly-placed sources said the veterans, drawn nationwide, have been re-engaged through the UPDF divisional headquarters in liaison with the district veterans' programme office. "Yes, it's true [that] about 3,000 veterans have been recalled, but these are mainly officers and men who had retired voluntarily," said reserve forces

commander, Major General Salim Salih [Rufo Akandwanaho], yesterday.

He said the exercise, which started early this month, had been conducted in almost all the districts. Asked which region sent the largest number, he said: "Although I don't have the exact figures, I think they are mainly from the east."

The major-general defended the move, saying it was a normal exercise, "because the veterans are part of the reserve force and can be recalled at any time to serve the nation."

Salim Salih said the recalled soldiers would serve for 12 months. Asked [about] their whereabouts, he said they are at Sango military training school, Kiboga [southwestern Uganda]. "They will be in Sango for 30 days before they are deployed," he said.

Uganda: Soldiers, Civilians Killed in Kony Rebel Attacks

EA2304112896 Kampala THE NEW VISION in English 23 Apr 96 p34

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Four soldiers, three rebels and an unknown number of civilians were killed early yesterday when Kony rebels attacked Patongo Division, 80 km southeast of Kitgum town [in northern Uganda].

Up to 50 houses were burnt by the rebels. Army sources confirmed the attack which they said was a surprise. [passage omitted]

Uganda: Stones Thrown at Rally; Ssemogerere Warns Against Violence

EA1904113996 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 1700 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Police yesterday neutralized a stone-throwing incident organized by local leaders in Kamwenge, Kabarole district [western Uganda] shortly after presidential candidate Paul Ssemogerere had addressed a rally there.

A UGANDA NEWS AGENCY correspondent covering Ssemogerere's campaign in Kabarole said preparations for the stone-throwing began as the rally was taking place, during which one of the cars carrying Dr. Ssemogerere's supporters was stoned. He said as Ssemogerere left the rally site, police had to walk ahead and in the process, had some scuffles with the stone-throwers who later on retreated.

Addressing a second rally at Port Portal, Dr. Ssemogerere warned that incidents of stone-throwing and intimidation during the 1996 presidential elections could easily mar the credibility of the exercise. [passage omitted]

Uganda: Presidential Candidate Warns Against Election Violence

EA2104150796 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 0600 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Presidential candidate, Dr. Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere, has warned that unless [the National Resistance] Movement [NRM] fanatics stop harassing his supporters and disrupting his rallies, there will be no guarantee that free and fair elections will be held on 9 May.

Addressing a huge public rally in Kasese town on Friday evening [19 April], Dr. Ssemogerere said he can no longer tolerate the throwing of stones at his convoy, the intimidation of his campaigners and other acts of hooliganism by nrm supporters during his campaign rallies.

Dr. Ssemogerere was complaining following an incident of hooliganism in Kabarole district where his campaign team was attacked with stones.

Before Ssemogerere spoke, a commissioner of the interim electoral commission in charge of western region, warned that any misconduct during presidential candidates' meetings is a crime punishable by a fine of 20,000 shillings or two years imprisonment or both, and offenders of this law, if apprehended, will be dealt with accordingly. [passage omitted]

Earlier, Dr. Ssemogerere addressed public rallies at Kichwamba, Maleba, Kisinga, Nyamaseke, and Bwera where he told his supporters, that when elected he would introduce a new scheme for farmers, businessmen and small-scale entrepreneurs, to obtain loans from banks without being obliged to have security and mortgages, as is required under bank regulations today. He explained that under the new scheme, the guarantors of the loan would be local religious leaders, voluntary clubs or local clan leaders who can assure the banks that the loans will be recovered.

South Africa: Mandela Appoints Election Task Team in KwaZulu/Natal

MB1904190196 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Presidential Task Group which will investigate the feasibility of holding local government elections in KwaZulu/Natal has been launched in Durban.

The body consists of representatives of all political parties in the KwaZulu/Natal provincial parliament. The committee also includes local government election committee chairperson Khehla Shubani, Dr. Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, and Constitutional Development Minister Chris Fissner. President Nelson Mandela has given the task team eight days to complete its task, and report back to him.

South Africa: Buthelezi Says Elections Task Group Could Avert 'Disaster'

MB2004171296 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi says the KwaZulu/Natal Elections Task Group could avert a disaster in the country. Mr. Buthelezi was speaking in Durban at the official appointment of a task team to investigate whether the circumstances were conducive to the holding of local government elections in the province next month.

[Begin Buthelezi recording] I hope that they'll tackle their job with responsibility because the future of this country, without any exaggeration, is in their hands, because their decision will decide whether we are going to have a bright future or whether we are going to have a ghastly future. [end recording]

South Africa: ANC Problems 'Real Reasons' for Seeking Elections Delay

MB1904191096 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN in English 19-25 Apr 96 p 8

[Report by Ann Eveleth]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Poor leadership, organisational chaos and overstretched party machinery are the real reasons behind the African National Congress's election panic in KwaZulu-Natal.

ANC sources argue that the party leadership failed to grasp the significance of conceding victory to the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] in 1994; that the IFP's power base would expand from a bantustan to the entire province, and its control of provincial machinery would make a future ANC victory an uphill battle.

Claims of IFP-aligned chiefs and reactionary Joint Services Boards (JSBs) dominating rural election processes must have reached the ANC's Durban headquarters months ago when its rural supporters first attempted to register.

The JSBs owe their existence in no small part to IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi. The chiefs — who will serve in an ex-officio capacity on rural local government — have as little business handling election administration as a judge has acting as prosecutor and executioner. Yet the ANC has only raised its voice on the issue now. Why?

ANC provincial executive member Sbu Ndebele denies his party has been silent on the issue. It raised the matter "in provincial structures much earlier", he said, while voters' rolls only became available for scrutiny in the past three weeks.

But according to other ANC sources, the party failed to mobilise its supporters to protest against the problems in the election administration in rural areas, and some of the fraudulent registrations should have been challenged during earlier hearings of the revision courts.

Of course, the ANC was at a disadvantage in this regard: its provincial leaders were occupied with the arduous provincial constitutional process, while IFP national leaders like Walter Felgate and Home Affairs adviser Mario Ambrosini shouldered that responsibility for the IFP, freeing up its provincial leaders to deal with the preparations for local government.

One ANC leader argued, however, that the party's problems run much deeper — dating back to its early attitude to the local polls: "We thought if we could maintain our urban strongholds, we didn't have to worry about the rural areas, which are mostly IFP walkovers. Only recently has it dawned on the leadership that we will lose the regional councils if we don't have a stand in the rural areas.

Ndebele denied the party was neglecting rural areas. But he suggested that it was more significant to win urban centres: "You can win Babanango, so you will have the right to decide whether donkeys can come into the town, or you can win Durban, where you will decide on real delivery issues.

Most worrying for the ANC is the realisation that it also faces a stiff challenge for control of the powerful Durban Metropolitan Council. ANC sources concede a "hung-council is likely, with the ANC controlling about 45% to 50% of seats, and the remaining going to the IFP and other "mickey mouse" parties and ratepayers' bodies.

One source traced the ANC's problems in Durban to its post-1994 election "appeasement" strategy. The ANC reached an agreement with the IFP in Durban the two parties would be represented on a 50-50 basis on the "non-statutory" side in the run-up to the interim council's formation. The IFP promptly ditched the ANC to find favour with the white parties, which helped it install an IFP mayor in the most significant ANC stronghold.

Another problem the ANC faces is the effect of the pre-1994 agreement to postpone non-racial local democracy. With wards from former white and Indian areas balanced evenly against more populous former African areas, a majority vote does not necessarily translate into majority power. This raises the stakes in the fight for white and Indian voters.

With so many odds stacked against it, ANC sources argue that the party's provincial leadership needed to ensure it had a slick, well-oiled campaign machine up and manning last year. Yet the ANC's provincial election manager, Sipho Gabashe, was only appointed past-November.

Other signs of disarray emerged when President Nelson Mandela addressed a rally in Newcastle last month. It was labelled an election launch, but the party failed to unveil an election manifesto — except to recycle campaign slogans used by the ANC in other provinces last year.

Party leaders argued at the time that the slogans had achieved success for the party in the polls and there was no reason to reinvent the wheel. Yet the low turnout (about 55%) for the November poll ought to worry the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal.

In other provinces, the poor turnout would have little impact. In KwaZulu-Natal — the province with the lowest 1994 turnout, at less than 83% — whites tend to vote safely in suburban bliss and IFP supporters tend to vote en masse. The people most likely to need encouragement are ANC voters — due to fear, apathy, frustration or fatalism.

But how diligent can a party be when its leader insists on wearing three hats? Jacob Zuma, the ANC's national chair, provincial chair and provincial MEC [member of the Executive Council] for Economic Affairs and Tourism, is severely overstretched.

While provincial leaders say Zuma has begun to play a greater role in rural mobilisation recently, the expectation that his rural, traditional Zulu persona would muster rural votes never paid off in the 1994 election. Now his head will be on the block in local elections — a realisa-

tion that has no doubt contributed to the ANC's threats of a boycott if the poll goes ahead on May 29.

South Africa: Freedom Front Welcomes Buthelezi Statement on Afrikaners

*MB2104175996 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1605 GMT 21 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA April 21 SAPA — The Freedom Front [FF] on Sunday welcomed a statement by Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] leader and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi that Afrikaners were here to stay.

FF Constitutional Development spokesman Dr Corne Mulder said the statement was even more meaningful because Buthelezi had made it in Afrikaans. "It is of great importance that another leader of one of the big political parties in South Africa has admitted the positive and important role Afrikaners play as an indigenous people of Africa," he said.

Mulder said the FF also hoped that "this positive attitude toward Afrikaners" would find a place in the KwaZulu-Natal constitution and that the IFP would not stand in the way of Afrikaners in their push for an own territorial area.

South Africa: National Party Leader Praises New Constitution

*MB2004153296 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1511 GMT 20 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PIETERSBURG April 20 SAPA — National Party [NP] secretary-general Roelf Meyer said on Saturday the party could be proud of the new constitution which he was confident would be completed by the target date — May 8.

The constitution would ensure and protect the rights of individuals and groups in South Africa, Meyer said. He was addressing members of the NP's Northern Province executive in Pietersburg. The new constitution could be regarded as an extension of the process of establishing a democracy started in South Africa by NP leader F W de Klerk in 1990.

"In the process of democratisation the NP has also succeeded in putting apartheid, which did not allow for equal opportunities, finally behind us. In many aspects the party has taken the lead in constituting a new and acceptable constitution for all the peoples (of South Africa)," Meyer said. He added that the next phase of promoting the NP as effective opposition and alternative government was the establishment of a multi-party concept in the minds of South Africans.

An effective and applicable constitution, however, did not guarantee good government, Meyer said. This ideal could only be ensured by the majority of the people who respect the values and norms protected by the constitution.

NP supporters must ensure the party took initiative in ensuring further reforms and not allowing South Africa to fall back into being a one-party state. "That would be a disaster because we will unavoidably follow the catastrophic road of other African countries. The constitution alone cannot guarantee that (this will not happen). The National Party will have to see to it that it remains the active and vibrant party it has been in the past," he said. "We are the number one enemy of the ANC (African National Congress), but we are respected ...by other countries," Meyer told delegates.

The party would grow in stature as an opposition party which in future would be the preferred governing party if people at grassroots level were made aware of the NP's plan for the future.

South Africa: Mandela Says Rand To Rebound in International Money Markets

*MB2004134796 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1034 GMT 20 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DURBAN April 20 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela said on Saturday that the rand would regain the ground it had lost on international money markets.

Mandela was addressing a peoples' forum at Kwa-Makutha south of Durban in KwaZulu-Natal attended by about 600 people.

"I am not worried. I am not alarmed. I know what is happening and there is nothing that I am going to do," he said in reference to the Rand's plunge on international money markets this week. "I am going to keep quiet.

"The Rand will strengthen and reach the levels it has functioned at all along.

"I am confident about the economy of this country and its finances.

"I know that the entire business community of this country is fully behind this government. There will be no crisis in this country," said Mandela.

Referring to what he called "the very capable" new Finance Minister, Trevor Manuel, and Reserve Bank governor, Dr Chris Stals, Mandela said: "They know what to do and I urge you (the people) not to get excited about the situation."

South Africa: COSATU — 'Unlikely' Rand's Fall Due to Fears of Socialism

*MB2004135296 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1258 GMT 20 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG April 20 SAPA — It was unlikely the rand was falling due to fears of socialism, Congress of South African Trade Union [COSATU] assistant general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi said on Saturday.

Since Trevor Manuel's appointment as Finance Minister, the rand has been dropping consistently and reaching all time lows. On Friday, it closed at 4.25 to the US dollar.

"It is important to realise the ANC is not a socialist organisation, it is still a liberation movement," Vavi told SAPA at a three-day COSATU conference in Johannesburg. He was discounting speculation that the ANC/COSATU alliance — coupled with ANC member Trevor Manuel's appointment — might have triggered investors' worries. "If that was the case, the rand would have dropped two years ago on April 27 with the general elections," he said. "I doubt whether anyone really knows why the rand is falling."

On Saturday President Nelson Mandela said the rand would regain the ground it had lost on international money markets.

South Africa: De Klerk Says COSATU Strike To Lead to Further Fall in Rand

*MB2304064496 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2249 GMT 22 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pietermaritzburg April 22 SAPA — Deputy President F W de Klerk said on Monday a national strike being called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions [COSATU] next week would lead to a further fall in the value of the rand.

Addressing a National Party [NP] election rally in Pietermaritzburg, he challenged the African National Congress to reject COSATU's strike call. He warned that the value of the rand would fall further if the strike went ahead and COSATU brought the nation to a standstill.

"If the ANC doesn't (reject the strike call), the rand will fall further," he said. Launching his party's election campaign in the city, De Klerk emphasised the need for a plan to improve the fight against crime and drew attention to an anti-crime strategy drawn up by KwaZulu/Natal NP leader and NP justice spokesman Danie Schutte.

He said while all parties were calling for an end to senseless killings, there was an urgent need for a total plan to address the issue of crime and law and order.

He stressed the need for a more effective police force which was not praised one day and the next denigrated by the government. "They must be able to rely on the support of the government and rely on the support of the public," he said.

He also again called on the government to "have the guts to reinstate the death sentence in a constitutional way.

Referring to political violence in the KwaZulu/Natal, De Klerk criticised the ANC and Inkatha Freedom Party who "continue to play a dangerous game of political musical chairs."

"We have had the ANC (in national government) for two years and we have had the IFP (in provincial government) for two years to do something about the violence, and they have dismally failed...with the power being a majority party brings with it."

He also criticised the ANC for its alliance with communism and the South African Communist Party and said the NP was the only party that had "truly renewed itself from within."

ANC supporters holding placards staged a protest outside the hall before and after the meeting and criticised De Klerk for not answering questions. During the meeting they stood in the hall and on one occasion, when laughing broke out, De Klerk retorted that while some people may laugh and "opponents continue to characterise the NP as an apartheid party, it offers a political home to all South Africans and is the most non-racial party in South Africa."

South Africa: ANC Supports COSATU Call for National Strike 30 Apr

MB2204100596 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
22 Apr 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Patrick Bulger]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The African National Congress has thrown its weight behind a one-day national strike on April 30 called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions [COSATU] at the weekend in support of their common constitutional objectives.

The national strike as well as strikes and pickets on Friday take place in the run-up to the Constitutional Assembly's [CA] vote on the final constitution on May 8.

The constitution is due to be tabled as a bill before a joint sitting of Parliament tomorrow opened by President Nelson Mandela.

The ANC's backing of the COSATU action — reminiscent of the ANC alliance mass action before the adoption of the interim constitution — suggests a period of intense political manoeuvring ahead both inside and outside of the CA as the parties jostle for their positions to be included in the final constitution.

ANC sources said the party supported COSATU's demand that the rights of employers to lock striking trade unionists out of production plants as contained in the interim constitution be done away with. The sources said the ANC was confident that employers had rights within the law to allow them to exercise the lockout option without this being entrenched in the constitution.

The sources also said the ANC would back COSATU's demand for the so-called "property clause" in the final constitution to be dropped if the ANC was faced with the prospect of having to vote for a property clause it could not fully support.

The ANC said in a statement yesterday that it would also back actions over the next two weeks by "workers, students and citizens of this country (who) will be articulating their support for a fully democratic constitution. The ANC supports the right of all South Africans to demonstrate peacefully in support of their positions on the constitution."

The ANC said it was calling on "freedom-loving South Africans to support COSATU's 24-hour national strike on 30 April around key outstanding constitutional issues and to participate in the pickets and strikes on April 26.

"The constitutional positions which COSATU is mobilising around are positions which the ANC has long maintained. They are issues which are critical to ensuring that the constitution lays the foundation for a society based on equality, justice and freedom.

"Those parties which are seeking to entrench fundamentally undemocratic provisions in the constitution must realise that the people of this country will not accept a constitution which hampers the democratic transformation of this country."

The tabling of the Constitution Bill tomorrow is a historic moment for the country's political evolution and signals the start of intense jockeying on the part of political parties to have it amended in their favour.

An ANC source said he did not expect that the ANC would bring amendments but that this would depend on the final wording as produced by the CA's technical

experts who worked throughout the weekend to finalise the draft. Printing was due to have begun yesterday afternoon.

At the weekend, National Party [NP] Secretary-General Roelf Meyer indicated that he was confident the constitution would be passed by a two-thirds majority on May 8. Both the NP and the Freedom Front will be arguing for stronger guarantees for cultural groups, especially in respect of language and education, in the week ahead.

FF [Freedom Front] leader Constand Viljoen has welcomed last week's constitutional committee agreement on a cultural commission, hailing it as a "breakthrough" and saying it formed an important part of the FF's drive for cultural self-determination.

The Democratic Party is also expected to join battle on the property clause which, its negotiator Dene Smuts argues, is tilted in favour of land redistribution and away from guaranteeing existing property rights.

Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi at the weekend rejected the constitutional draft, saying the IFP was not a part of it. Buthelezi told a Western Cape local government election meeting he would "most definitely" not be at the planned May 8 celebrations.

South Africa: IFP Says COSATU's Strike Call 'Bully Boy' Tactics

*MB2204112796 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1110 GMT 22 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Durban April 22 SAPA — The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] on Monday said the call for an April 30 nationwide strike by the Congress of SA Trade Unions [COSATU] was "bully boy" tactics.

The strike was intended to pressure political parties into weakening provisions in the proposed Bill of Rights, said Inkatha.

COSATU called the strike to support its demand that the right of employers to lock out striking workers be removed from the constitution.

Inkatha said in a statement: "Nothing has prevented COSATU from making submissions to the Constitutional Assembly, and nothing prevents it from still so doing."

The strike call was "simply bully boy tactics, and nothing justifies the union federation threatening mass action in support of its unilateral demands", said Inkatha.

It said the right of employees to strike had to be counterbalanced with employers' rights, as was already the case in the interim constitution.

South Africa: DP Says COSATU's Planned Strike To Cause Rand To 'Freefall'

*02204101196 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0957 GMT 22 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town April 22 SAPA — The rand would "freefall" should the Congress of South African Trade Unions [COSATU] embark on a nationwide strike on April 30 to force further constitutional concessions, the Democratic Party [DP] said on Monday.

The current constitutional draft was already one of the most labour-friendly worldwide, and for COSATU to demand further concessions would make South Africa one of the most investment-unfriendly countries, DP labour spokesman Senator James Selfe said in a statement.

The ANC's backing of the threatened strike was also inexcusable.

It constituted an act of bad faith as the party now favoured a strike despite the position to which it had already agreed, he said. "What responsible government anywhere in the world would encourage a nation-wide strike?"

COSATU is demanding that the final constitution to be proposed for adoption on May 8 should not include the rights of employers to lock out striking workers.

South Africa: PAC Supports COSATU Call for General Strike 30 April

*MB2104192696 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1913 GMT 21 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN April 21 SAPA — Pan Africanist Congress [PAC] MP Patricia de Lille on Sunday said the PAC fully supported the Congress of SA [South Africa] Trade Unions' [COSATU] call for a general strike on April 30 in support of its constitutional demands.

She said in a statement the PAC's own submissions to the Constitutional Assembly on the property clause, the right to life, and a proposed lock-out clause were the same as the views held by COSATU. The PAC did not see the need for a property clause protecting private owners. It was opposed to the death penalty and objected to inclusion in the constitution of a clause giving employers the right to lock-out workers during industrial action.

"We call on the National Council of Trade Unions, Fedsal [Federation of South African Labor Unions] and all workers in the country to support COSATU and the PAC on these crucial demands," de Lille said.

COSATU announced on Sunday, at the end of a three-day conference in Johannesburg, that it would mobilise its 1.3 million members for a 24-hour strike on April 30 in support of its constitutional demands.

South Africa: SACP Supports COSATU Call for National Strike

*MB2304110496 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0932 GMT 23 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg April 23 SAPA — The South African Communist Party [SACP] on Tuesday expressed unequivocal support for the Congress of SA Trade Unions' [COSATU] call for a nationwide strike on April 30. A statement by the SACP's central committee said the party was outraged that there were forces demanding the inclusion of a lockout clause in the final constitution.

COSATU at the weekend said the strike was being called to demand that employers be denied the constitutional right to lock out striking employees. The SACP said it was also deeply concerned about the property clause in the Bill of Rights. If there was need for such a clause at all, it had to ensure that it did not preempt the economic and social transformation needed to overcome the effects of decades of apartheid and centuries of colonialism, the SACP said.

Those who were trying to entrench a lockout clause and those insisting on an extensive property clause were seeking to entrench powers and privileges derived during apartheid.

South Africa: Police Said Denied Entry in ANC Stronghold in KwaZulu/Natal

*MB2204104396 Durban ILANGA in Zulu
18-20 Apr 96 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] KwaZulu/Natal premier, Dr. F.T. Mdlalose, said on Tuesday night at Uhundi that he has received reports that the police are not allowed in areas termed as the no-go areas which are the ANC stronghold in Richmond. It is alleged that police must first get permission from the ANC to visit these areas, and when they go there, they must be escorted by ANC members. Mdlalose said as minister responsible for safety and security in the province, he finds this situation quite unacceptable. He further added that what is worrying is that the commissioner of police is aware of the situation and is doing nothing to correct it. He continued that he has evidence that the ANC leader in KwaZulu/Natal, Mr. Jacob Zuma, has been aware of these no-go areas in Richmond since November last year. Mdlalose said he will request President Nelson Mandela to institute a commission to investigate the

failure of the national safety and security ministry in the government of national unity, and the police to report this sensitive matter to him.

South Africa: Bomb Threat Disrupts Truth Commission Hearings in Cape Town

MB2304085596 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0800 GMT 23 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There has again been a bomb threat at hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, almost one week since the last bomb scare. Sniffer dogs had to be brought in this morning to the buildings where the hearings are being held at Athlone in Cape Town.

The police said they received a bomb threat a short while ago. The Truth Commission sittings were also disrupted after a bomb scare in the East London City Hall last week.

South Africa: Foreign Leaders Expected To Attend Freedom Day Celebration

*MB2204200996 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1802 GMT 22 Apr 96*

[Report by Angela Quintal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN April 22 SAPA — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein are among world leaders expected to attend South Africa's Freedom Day celebrations in Pretoria at the weekend.

Security reasons had, however, precluded the two Middle East leaders from confirming their attendance, organisers told SAPA.

A number of leaders to attend a United Nations trade and development conference at Midrand from April 27 to May 11 have also been invited to Saturday's [27 April] R2-million [rands] celebrations.

They include Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres, Swiss President Kaspar Villiger, Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa and Botswanan President Ketumile Masire.

Other foreign dignitaries at the two-day celebrations, to be opened by President Nelson Mandela, will include United Nations secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

"It will be a truly historical event," Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister Dr Ben Ngubane said in Pretoria on Monday.

South African Press Review for 22 Apr

MB2204130896

[FBIS Report]

SOWETAN

Mandela Not Serious Enough About Rand's Battering — The "battering" the rand took against foreign currencies "is not being taken with enough seriousness by President Nelson Mandela," declares a page-10 editorial in Johannesburg **SOWETAN** in English on 22 April. New Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and his predecessor Chris Liebenberg are currently abroad meeting bankers and other people "to convince them of the soundness of South Africa's economic policies. Mandela should act in a manner that supports their efforts." "Manuel and Liebenberg need all the support they can get."

BUSINESS DAY

'Absence of Accountability' in Poll Proportional Representation — "It seems South Africa is about to be saddled, for the 1999 election at least, with the pure proportional representation system used at the last general election," notes a page-10 editorial in Johannesburg **BUSINESS DAY** in English on 22 April. The paper criticizes this system because of the "absence of accountability on the part of MPs to voters. In our present system, individual MPs are answerable only to their parties. The direct link between voters and their representatives does not exist." Furthermore, "pure proportional representation is likely to benefit, more than anyone else, the old school Nats [National Party—NP]. The party will have less incentive to place more credible black (including coloured and Indian) candidates in mainly black constituencies — a few tokens will do. And this will keep the NP caucus mainly white, even as the party (half of whose support base is not white) tries to present itself as transformed."

South African Press Review for 23 Apr

MB2304140296

[FBIS Report]

THE STAR

Call for National Stayaway 'Irresponsible' — "Without going into the merits or demerits of the constitutional issues still in dispute, and those on which a less-than-satisfactory agreement has been reached, we believe the decision to call a national stayaway is downright irresponsible," declares a page-14 editorial in Johannesburg **THE STAR** in English on 23 April. "What is surprising is not so much that COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] has come up with the idea, but rather that the ANC supports it. A stayaway would be irresponsible at any time, but especially now when the rand and the economy have taken such a heavy battering in recent weeks."

BUSINESS DAY

'Little Logic' in COSATU Strike Call — There is "little logic" in COSATU's call for a national strike, says a page-14 editorial in Johannesburg **BUSINESS DAY** in English on 23 April. A "likely explanation" is the "continuing concern of the federation's top leadership over the gulf between it and the militant middle-level leadership. A strike gives this group an opportunity to mobilise — something which has occurred with monotonous regularity, over curious issues, in recent years. Notably, the issues chosen enable the action to be direct at parties other than the ANC in government." A campaign for a 40-hour work week "would be much closer to the average organised worker's heart. But that would mean targeting the labour ministry which, conscious of economic realities, has indicated its support for a more gradual reduction in working hours."

Angola

Angola: MPLA's Lourenco Discusses Visit to U.S., Peace Process

MB2204092596 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Joao Lourenco, information secretary of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [MPLA], has said in Luanda that the United States wants peace and stability to prevail in Angola. Lourenco said sound cooperation relations aimed at promoting development can only be established if peace and stability are in place. He said the United States supports the ongoing peace process and all initiatives to end war. Lourenco discusses his recent visit to the United States at the invitation of the U.S. Government.

[Begin recording] [Lourenco] The aim of the visit was to strengthen the ties that unite our two countries and peoples. I was in Washington for about a week, during which I had important meetings at the State Department's Africa Department, the National Security Council, the International Center for Strategic Studies, and the Afro-American Institute. The Institute is an influential grouping with a degree of influence over U.S. relations with Africa. All my interlocutors unanimously agreed that Angola needs peace and that U.S.-Angola relations should primarily be based on an atmosphere of peace, not war.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] the U.S. Government inviting a party official instead of a government member. What does that mean?

[Lourenco] Governments come and go, parties stay. We are the ruling party, and so the United States is quite interested in learning more about the ruling party's leaders.

[Correspondent] Can that be perceived as a different way of looking at who is who in Angola?

[Lourenco] Obviously, the United States would like to have a better idea of every Angolan party, notably the leading parties. That is, the MPLA, UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], and a few others.

[Correspondent] How does the MPLA view the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol?

[Lourenco] We think the peace process has reached a very important stage after the government honored the pledges made by the president of the Republic when he visited the United States in December, and following the Libreville summit held in February, as well as when UNITA began quartering its soldiers. We hope that the quartering of UNITA soldiers will be completed as

soon as possible because only one third of its men has been quartered. The government and the international community continue to encourage UNITA to complete the quartering exercise so that by June or July we can form a government of unity and national reconciliation in line with what was decided during the Libreville meeting.

[Correspondent] The UNITA leader has linked the peace process to a number of demands, namely the introduction of an amnesty law and a greater transparency in the government's implementation of the peace accord. What are your comments?

[Lourenco] What matters for us is not the introduction of laws, but that the law is upheld. As long as UNITA fulfills its obligations, we are willing to effectively grant an amnesty to all those UNITA members who committed crimes against civilians during the conflict. An amnesty law is in place, it was approved by the National Assembly. There is no reason for UNITA to question the validity of the law.

[Correspondent] And an amnesty declaration likely to be made by the Angolan head of state would not annul the amnesty law?

[Lourenco] It would not. A declaration would complement the law, instead of annulling it.

[Correspondent] Regarding the vice presidency, UNITA wants the post to have more executive powers. What is the MPLA's position on this?

[Lourenco] That is debatable. In principle, vice presidents will have specific responsibilities, but right now we are not even able to clarify them. We, however, believe that this should not prevent Dr. Savimbi from responding to the invitation made in Libreville. Vice presidents come second in the Angolan hierarchy. [end recording]

Angola: Joint Commission Blames UNITA for 'Slow Pace'

MB1904072596 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 19 Apr 96

[Report by correspondent Alves Antonio in Kuito]

[FBIS Translated Text] At its 34th plenary session, held in the city of Kuito on 18 April, the Joint Commission expressed its serious concern over the slow pace at which pledges made in Libreville are being fulfilled. After a meticulous evaluation of the situation, the Joint Commission blamed the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] for not quartering its soldiers in Andulo, and deplored the quality and quantity

of weapons the organization has been presenting at assembly areas.

On UNITA's decision not to withdraw its military forces from Cabinda Province, the Joint Commission says it will deal with the issue with utmost transparency. There are, however, no assembly areas designated for UNITA soldiers in Cabinda.

Angola: UNITA Issues Statement on Deployment of Intervention Police

MB1804200896 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1900 GMT 18 Apr 96

[Communiqué issued by the UNITA Information Secretariat in Bailundo on 18 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. The Information Secretariat of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] has examined with concern the government's intention to deploy the Rapid Intervention Police in some areas, such as Catengue in Benguela Province.

2. The Rapid Intervention Police must be confined immediately, as stipulated in the Lusaka Protocol. By deploying the Rapid Intervention Police, the government jeopardizes UNITA's goodwill to continue to confine its troops, particularly in Chicuma, where the confinement process is due to begin on 19 April 1996.

3. We would like to note that the return of the Angolan Armed Forces to the nearest barracks in the central region was used by the government to concentrate troops for deployment. It is therefore not unlikely that the same thing could happen with the Rapid Intervention Police.

The UNITA Information Secretariat would like to urge the Joint Commission to adopt a stand in the face of this situation.

[Issued] Bailundo, 18 April 1996

[Signed] UNITA Information Secretariat

Angola: UNITA Delivers List of Officials To Join Government, Army

MB2104151296 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] negotiating team in Luanda is headed by Dr. Jorge Alicerces Valentim and includes Ambassador Abel Chivukuvku. Negotiations are continuing concerning UNITA's effective participation in the National Assembly and in a government of national unity and reconciliation.

Dr. Valentim told the Portuguese media this weekend that UNITA — in the interests of lasting peace in this country — already has delivered to the government a list of UNITA officials who will occupy posts in the government and the Angolan Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Mozambique

Mozambique: Economic Associations Criticize Government Policies

MB2204180096 Maputo MEDIAFAX in Portuguese 15 Apr 96 p 1, 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Economic Associations [AE] have once again expressed concern over the Economic and Social Rehabilitation Program underway in the country. The government says the growth target for 1996 is 4 percent. This does not seem like enough or possible.

This mild growth, a little above the population growth, can only be the outcome of the highly restrictive loan policy, of the state's low investment volume (about \$100 million), and lack of private investment.

The AE cannot agree in any way with a policy orientated merely to lessen inflation without a development plan.

The recovery of infrastructures destroyed during the war (roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, canteens, and so on) require an effort which is not easy to achieve with the current policy. In this scenario there are no conditions to vigorously revamp agricultural production and bartering without which it is impossible to develop the country. If conditions are not created permitting the movement of people and goods and minimum services to the population, we will continue to have unemployed peasants in the outskirts of the cities who should be producing in the fields.

There is need to massively invest, even if investment generates inflation, as long as it is directed at production rather than consumption. This happened in many countries.

Another cause of concern for the AE is the lack of a real Development Bank, an institution which is essential in countries which have been destroyed by war such as Mozambique. At the current interest rates, (the argument that they are under the inflation rate is a fallacy), it is not possible for the Mozambican private sector to participate in the development of the national economy. Statistics released by the government indicating the number of companies privatized in favor of Mozambicans are deceitful, they do not reflect the reality. The companies have been purchased through

loans and are mostly paralyzed and lack financial resources to duly revamp production.

If an assessment were made on the post-privatization period, the truth would have come out.

The AE are still awaiting the outcome of the private sector's first seminar held in 1995. The problems identified at the time have not yet been solved and in the upcoming second seminar we will surely hear that nothing has changed. The notary costs, customs duties, and taxes have not been altered. There is still bureaucratization and in some instances it has worsened.

We are also concerned about the functioning of the state apparatus since there is a growing degradation of the quality of civil servants. This degradation is visible not only in the different state departments but also in the central state apparatus. The ministers are becoming more and more administrative and less politicians. Decisions are not made on time, causing enormous damage to companies.

This leads us to once more request a major involvement of the AE in the search for consensus and drafting of policies. Unfortunately, the government is still isolating businessmen, making unilateral decisions without consultation. The involvement of all social partners in other countries proved to be successful.

We are amazed to hear that the government approved the transportation policy without holding talks with the sector's workers. What will the government achieve with this kind of attitude, by systematically isolating the entrepreneur sector when drafting policies and legislation, leaving to the latter the task of implementing something which, due to the aforementioned reasons, fails to materialize.

The AE appeals to the government to allow its involvement in the drafting of policies and economic legislation. We are convinced that a joint effort would score better results. The AE wishes to offer constructive contribution and with its opinions, assure that the decisions made will be effectively implemented.

Namibia

Namibia: FM Gurirab Calls Botswana's Military Buildup 'Provocative'

*MB1904121196 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1044 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WINDHOEK April 19 SAPA — Namibian Foreign Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab on Thursday said a Botswanan military build-up near the disputed Kasikili island was provocative.

"It would serve the interests of both countries if Botswana were to behave in a manner that serves the course we have jointly agreed ... to find a binding ruling by the International Court of Justice," he told NBC [Namibian Broadcast Corporation] television in Windhoek.

Ownership of the 1km-by-3km island in the Chobe River, between north-eastern Namibia and Botswana, has been in dispute since 1992. Namibians know it as Kasikili; Botswanans call it Sedudu. When negotiations to find a settlement proved inconclusive, both countries agreed earlier this year to take the case to the International Court of Justice at The Hague and committed themselves to abide by the world court's ruling.

Gurirab said it was unclear why Botswana had stepped up its military presence in the area. Namibia, he said, was not prepared to go to war over the island. "Our focus is on peace, job creation and development, not only in our own country but in the SADC [Southern African Development Community] region as a whole," he said.

According to news reports, Botswana Defence Force soldiers have stopped Namibians fishing in the river near the island and tourists feel threatened by having guns pointing at them from look-outs.

Botswanan high commissioner to Namibia Tuelonyana Dithabi-Oliphant declined to comment, NBC TV said.

The island, often covered by water, "is not even there at the moment", a source said in Windhoek.

Namibia: FM Views Botswanan Claim of Troops Deployed To Kill Sick Cattle

*MB2304110396 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0957 GMT 23 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Windhoek April 23 SAPA — Botswana has confirmed its troop deployment near the disputed Kasikili island, but maintains it is part of an operation to destroy about 300,000 cattle infected with Bovine Lung Sickness. THE NAMIBIAN newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Namibian Foreign Affairs Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab said Botswana's High Commissioner to Namibia, Rosemary Dithabi Oliphant, had confirmed the deployment of soldiers, police and anti-poaching units. She had claimed the troop movements were necessary as the government had decided to destroy infected cattle.

On Tuesday, the Botswana Government said it was "regrettable" that the Namibian Government, after being officially informed, had not informed its citizens about the reasons for the troop movements.

Gurirab told THE NAMIBIAN it was up to Namibia's Ministry of Defence to ascertain whether the infected cattle were the real reason for the troop build-up near Kasikili. He said if Botswana was aiming to entrench its presence on the island through the deployment of a large number of soldiers, it would have very serious consequences.

Namibia and Botswana both claim ownership of the small island in the Chobe River separating northeastern Namibia from Botswana. After a series of failed negotiations, both countries agreed to take the dispute to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Namibian Defence Minister Philemon Malima said Botswana was doing nothing to cause alarm and was rounding up infected cattle and wild animals to destroy them. "Botswana warned us there would be a massive movement of troops in that area involving helicopters, military personnel and nature conservation officers," Malima said. He also said there was nothing wrong, following recent reports, with Botswana upping its defence capabilities. "Once you allow your country to have a defence force, you allow it to have plans to grow," he said.

Namibia: Government Welcomes UN Forces Along Border With Angola

MB2204191396 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1500 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Namibian Government has welcomed the arrival of United Nations Peacekeepers in Angola's southeastern Cuando Cubango Province. Namibian Information and Broadcasting Minister Ben Amathila said the move was a step toward peace and stability in Angola. He expressed the hope that the Angolan Government would soon take control of the province to curb illegal crossborder activities to enable people on both sides of the border to feel secure.

Mr. Amathila said Namibia's northeastern border would remain closed until the UN Peacekeepers had consolidated their position. Namibian President Sam Nujoma ordered the closure of the border along the Kavango River after three Namibians had been killed and a woman assaulted by people thought to have come from southern Angola.

Namibia: Official Announces Purchase of Brazil Naval Vessels

MB1204074296 Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 9 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Following several Namibian Government admissions and denials over the possible purchase of Brazilian naval vessels valued at approx-

imately 800 million Namibian dollars, the Ministry of Defense announced the strengthening of naval cooperation between the defense force and Brazil.

A multi-million dollar Brazilian project involving the construction of a Namibian naval base and the compilation of a nautical chart of Namibian coastal waters is apparently the last piece of the Corvette puzzle being put in place.

Defense Minister Philemon Malima has also announced a sharp increase of approximately 26 percent in the defense budget to nearly 294 million Namibian dollars to cover also the intake of altogether 1,000 former PLAN [People's Liberation Army of Namibia] members and the recruitment of altogether 1,500 school leavers this year.

The defense budget was accepted in the National Assembly last week shortly after the Easter recess, after opposition parties criticized the continuation of ethnic and political appointments in the army.

In the budget debate Mr. Malima announced details of a Brazilian navy "proposal" to become involved in other huge naval projects, in conjunction with its military cooperation agreement with Namibia. He added that Walvis Bay will be the ideal place for the planned naval base but that a feasibility study would have to be undertaken first. He says that a final decision will also depend on negotiations between the government, the Walvis Bay municipality, and the harbor authority.

Although the minister did not announce any details concerning the total cost of such a naval base and the compilation of nautical charts for Namibia, he described both projects as necessary.

"It is understandable that this will be a costly exercise for which we have to pay a high price, a price which will have to be paid, owing to the fact that it is Namibia's responsibility to develop its defense needs and guarantee its territorial integrity," Mr. Malima told the National Assembly.

In his address he did not refer to the approximately 800 million Namibian dollars for the controversial planned purchase of Brazilian naval vessels. The official spokesman for defense headquarters, Lt. Joe Ashipala, confirmed to DIE REPUBLIKEIN earlier that the defense force is currently involved in negotiations with Brazil over the purchase of "patrol boats" and that Namibia will definitely not be taking up a German Government offer for German naval vessels at no cost.

Namibia: SWAPO Names New Secretary-General

*MB1704205096 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1446 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WINDHOEK April 17 SAPA — Swapo [South-West African People's Organization] secretary-general Moses Garoeb had been replaced by Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Netumbo Ndaitwah, news reports said in Windhoek on Wednesday.

Garoeb told a media briefing on Tuesday he had taken leave of party duties to devote his energies to his job as Minister of Labour and Manpower Development.

He said Mrs Ndaitwah's appointment signalled a transfer of power by Swapo to the younger generation. "I'm very, very happy about the event and the decision by the political bureau," he said. "This is a significant event in the history of the party."

Ndaitwah was appointed deputy secretary-general by the ruling party's politburo last weekend. In terms of Swapo's constitution only a congress, due to be held later this year, can elect a secretary-general and there is no provision for an acting secretary-general.

Political observers believe a number of younger party officials will replace the old guard in a Cabinet reshuffle expected to be announced shortly.

Zambia**Zambia: Chiluba Opens MMD Election Office, Urges Nonviolence**

*MB1804180496 ZAMBIA TODAY in English
17 Apr 96*

[Item originally published by ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY on 17 April 1996; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Frederick Chiluba Monday [15 April] helped his party put in place infrastructure for the coming Presidential and Parliamentary elections when he officially opened offices from where the party's election workers are to operate from.

Officially opening the MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] Elections Centre at the new Zambia National Provident Fund Building along Lumumba Road, Mr Chiluba said party members should minimise internal squabbles and concentrate on strengthening the secretariat.

Mr Chiluba emphasised the need for peace in Zambia if development is to be enhanced adding that those advocating for violence were not genuine Zambians. The President also gave cheering news to the Civil Servants occupying government quarters when he revealed that

his cabinet had just approved plans to sell some of them at a cabinet meeting held at State House Monday.

Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Amusaa Mwanamwamba was in the process of announcing the details agreed upon, he said.

Mr Chiluba maintained that his government was very much committed to the process of economically empowering all the people of Zambia. Mr Chiluba also announced that before the end of April his party will be unveiling its new manifesto for voters to see the new areas in which it wants to chart out for the whole nation. As party president, Mr Chiluba has an office at the complex on the sixth floor of the building, which he also visited.

Party Chairman Sikota Wina told the President that his office had been designed in such a way that it would give confidence and inspiration to the rank and file members of the party.

Zambia: MMD Sets Election Guidelines, Urges No Infighting

*MB2004164296 ZAMBIA TODAY in English
19 Apr 96*

[Originally published by the ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY, ZANA, on 19 April, titled: "MMD Sets Out Guidelines for Elections"; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) National Executive Committee (NEC) will not accept members of parliaments who have been rejected by their constituencies to contest in general elections.

Addressing MMD provincial and district leadership here, party national secretary, Michael Sata, said the NEC would only accept those MPs who have been supported by their constituencies.

He said the decision had come because in the past some members of parliament have caused problems to party leadership in their constituencies. "In the near future, any leader rejected by his constituency even if he appealed to me, he will not win my sympathy," he said. Mr Sata also advised party leaders and members to refrain from insulting each other especially if they lost elections because insults could fan violence.

"Once you insult your leader, just know that you are being disrespectful to President Chiluba who that leader represents," he said. [passage omitted]

Zambia: Government Berates Kaunda's Barotseland Promise

MB2004171396 *ZAMBIA TODAY* in English
19 Apr 96

[Originally published by the ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY, ZANA, on 18 April, titled: "Kaunda Leading Lozi by the Nose — Mwanamwambwa"; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Government on Thursday [18 April] described the promise by former state President, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, that he will restore the Barotseland Agreement of 1964 which he had earlier abrogated as an act of irresponsibility.

"Kaunda is acting like a quack doctor who, after administering a lethal dosage of poison to a person, mockingly tell the corpse that he would raise it from the dead," Chief Government spokesman and Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, Amusaa Mwanamwambwa, commented.

He said government was urging people of Western Province to ignore the misleading calls from UNIP [United National Independence Party] especially from the pro-Kaunda forces at the traditional capital of Lealui in Mongu which was trying to force them to vote for what it termed "an exhausted, yesterday politician". "The people of Western Province, and all parts of Zambia for that matter, must be wary of politicians who promise them mountains, when they know that for a staggering 27 years, they delivered no more than ant-hills," Mr Mwanamwambwa said.

Reacting to yesterday's promise by UNIP president Dr Kaunda that his party would discuss the controversial Barotseland Agreement if it bounced back to power, Mr Mwanamwambwa said Dr Kaunda should leave the Western Province people alone because he has already abrogated the agreement.

He said Dr Kaunda had already done irreparable damage to their well being by unilaterally abrogating the Barotse Agreement (1964) through an irreversible referendum and a constitutional amendment (Act Number 33 of 1969).

Mr Mwanamwambwa said by referring to the agreement, Dr Kaunda was being cruel to, and insulting the intelligence of the people of Western Province because even if he could reverse what he did, he has already buried the Barotse Agreement subject and offered himself as a state witness if the Barotse Royal Establishment went to court over the matter.

On the presidential candidature of Dr Kaunda, the minister said no one will stop him from standing if only

he will satisfy the minimum eligibility criteria such as citizenship.

Zambia: Barotse Agreement Called Deciding Factor in Elections

MB2204173696 *Lusaka THE POST* in English
22 Apr 96

[Report by Goodson Machona; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Barotse Cultural Association (BCA) yesterday warned that any political party that does not address itself to the Barotseland Agreement of 1964 must forget about winning any seat in Western Province.

In a press statement signed by its chairman, Batuke Imenda, and Secretary Mutete Kashimani, the association reiterated its insistence that the Agreement remains valid despite government's indication last year that it was stale.

"The BCA position has always been that the Barotseland Agreement remains valid as long as Zambia remains a unitary state," the statement dated [no date given — as received] read in part. "The agreement is the Sine Qua Non for Zambia, for without it there would never be Zambia as we know it today."

The reaction comes in the wake of former president Kenneth Kaunda's assurance to the Litunga Ilute Yeta that UNIP [United National Independence Party] would discuss the Agreement if it bounced back to power.

But government spokesman, Amusaa Mwanamwambwa, rebuffed Kaunda's promise and described it as "an insult to the people of Zambia". "Kaunda is acting like a quack doctor, who after administering a lethal dosage of poison to a patient, mockingly tells the corpse that he would raise it from the dead," Mwanamwambwa said.

Opposition Zambia Democratic Congress (ZDC) Vice-President Kasuka Mutukwa has also castigated Kaunda "for cheating the people".

"The Barotse Agreement did not abrogate itself. It is the former government which abolished it systematically and intentionally in spite of several assurances given personally by Dr Kaunda," Mutukwa said, asking: "Since when has he changed a position he held for 30 years and since when has Dr. Kaunda changed when last year he had offered to be witness of the MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] in the case against the Lozi Royal Establishment?"

But this seems to have angered the BCA who view Mwanamwambwa and Mutukwa as sellouts. "It is ironic

that some Lozi politicians whether in opposition or the ruling party still continue to be used by their parties against the interests of their own people in Barotseland," the statement further reads, warning: "Barotseland is on the threshold of a new dispensation. The clarion call in Barotseland today is for the restoration of the Agreement nothing else."

The association charged that the Agreement is an internationally recognised Agreement which cannot be unilaterally altered by any of its signatories. "The central government as party to the Agreement has no capacity to abrogate the Barotseland Agreement 1964 because there was no Zambia before the Agreement. It is the Barotseland Agreement of 1964 which created Zambia. Those politicians who purport that the Agreement has been abrogated and is a dead issue are as mischievous as they are misguided.

The Agreement was signed by the then Barotseland, Northern Rhodesia and the British crown. They (BCA) likened the Barotseland Agreement to the Treaty of Waitangi of 1804 between the Maoris and British crown which after nearly 150 years was reactivated.

"If a treaty which is 150 years old is not stale, how can the Barotseland Agreement 1964 which is only 32 years old be considered stale?" the BCA asked.

The BCA also derided Mutukwa for contradicting his president on the issue. "As for ZDC, we wonder if its president and vice-president Mutukwa ever hold cabinet meetings as their position on the Barotseland Agreement 1964 are at variance. Mutukwa's statement has seriously damaged Mung'omba and ZDC's credibility in Barotseland," the statement reads.

Zambia: Health Minister Berates MMD 'Instant Millionaires'

MB2004163096 Lusaka THE POST in English
19 Apr 96

[Report by Rueben Tonga and Reuben Phiri: "MMD Attacks MMD Instant Millionaires"; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Ruling MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] national secretary, health minister Michael Sata, yesterday accused some MMD officials of becoming "instant millionaires" and challenged them to be screened to justify their source of wealth.

Sata also admitted that President Frederick Chiluba's government has only succeeded in improving the well-being of some party members and not the Zambian economy. "I am ready to be screened. We should all be screened to find out where we worked and where we got our money from," challenged Sata who was escorted by

three bus loads of supporters singing praise songs and glorifying him.

Sata was speaking during the opening of a five-day political agents seminar at Mulungushi village organised by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) yesterday.

The seminar which ends on Friday has each day reserved time for one major political party to address the participants and began with MMD yesterday and is targeting election monitoring and responsible leadership, according to NDI's Rob Black.

Sata who used the seminar more for political campaign charged that a number of MMD party officials had improved their life-styles since the party assumed power in 1991.

"President Chiluba has not rehabilitated the economy, he has rehabilitated some of us who are now walking with our chests out now," Sata said without elaborating. He, however, warned his fellow party members to use their money properly.

"Those with money which they worked for should use it properly, but if you didn't work for your money it will destroy you," Sata warned. Sata, speculated to be building clout for the presidency in the year 2001, had earlier caused confusion at the NDI meeting when he arrived with the over 200 canting cadres.

The cadres riled party members found at the seminar when they sang songs demeaning other MMD leaders. [passage omitted]

But Sata later disassociated himself from his cadres behaviour jokingly: "Where two elephants fight it is the grass that suffers. You will be quarreling and insulting each other while me and Nakatindi will be drinking brandy."

NDI field representative David Stearn took Sata's "grand" appearance casually saying "everyone was free to do what they wanted since it was just the opening day of the seminar." Earlier Sata disrupted business operations for working tenants at Woodgate House where the cadres had assembled before being transported to the NDI meeting.

The cadres began beating drums and singing songs for Sata drowning with noise the place which also houses the health ministry and several private businesses. The minister ignored angry looks and murmurs from protesting tenants and briefly joined the cadres in the dancing before loading them onto the government buses. [passage omitted]

Zimbabwe**Zimbabwe: Government's Budget Numbers 'Don't Add Up'**

MB2204122996 Johannesburg *FINANCIAL MAIL*
in English 12 Apr 96

[*"Zimbabwe's Economic Outlook: Something has got to Give"*; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As Harare resumed negotiations with the IMF for the replacement of the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility [as published], suspended a year ago, the focus was on the budget deficit.

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor Leonard Tsumba recently said that, in the seven months to January, government had met its spending targets and stayed within its borrowing target. Tsumba's claim that government spending controls were starting to pay dividends sparked angry comment from the business community, which says it is not so much government spending that is being controlled but payments which are simply not being made. Even if spending targets are met, insiders put the 1996 budget deficit at around 10.5% of GDP — down three percentage points on last year's 13.4%. This is more than double the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility target of 5%.

The Zimbabwe problem is similar to that of SA [South Africa] — a heavy public-sector wage bill and a deepening debt trap.

Tsumba puts Zimbabwe's public-sector debt at almost U.S.\$7bn or a horrendous 130% of GDP. Between them, the salary bill and interest charges absorb more than 60% of the budget. No wonder government has gone back on promises to cut taxes and has been casting around for new sources of revenue.

These include last December's 5% increase in sales tax on nonessentials, the extension of the 5% drought levy on personal and corporate income tax for a second year, the increase in the withholding tax on building society interest to 30% from 20% and the controversial tobacco auction floor turnover tax. The 5% levy applies to all tobacco sold on the floors in the sales which start this month. The new tax should bring in Z\$300m [Zimbabwe dollars] (R128m [rands]). The tax is not deductible for income tax purposes and therefore takes 5% off the top from growers. Ironically, the impact on the bottom line will be greatest for the 9,500 small-scale producers — most of them black — many of whom could be pushed out of production, says the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association which represents tobacco farmers.

The Cabinet is split on the new tax, too, with Agriculture Minister Denis Norman — one of two whites in the pre-election Cabinet — coming out publicly against it.

President Robert Mugabe is unlikely to be sympathetic. After all, throughout last month's presidential election campaign, he promised massive increases in government spending, especially in rural areas, on land resettlement, on schools, clinics, dams and a third government university.

Yet, government capital investment spending has been slashed — from nearly 6% of GDP in 1994-1995 to 2.6% in the current fiscal year ending on June 30. Such a policy cannot be maintained for long, especially in view of the President's unfulfillable election promises.

The government hopes the debt burden will ease as interest rates come down. At present, it is borrowing Z\$16bn in the Treasury bill market, at rates of around 28.5% — an annual interest rate cost of more than Z\$4.5bn. The theory is that as rates come down — in the second half of 1996 — so the Treasury bills will be replaced by longer-term borrowing at lower rates.

This rose-tinted view of the economy depends on inflation coming down sharply later in the year. In the first two months of 1996, it has averaged 27.2% and is set to remain above 20% into the third quarter and possibly longer. A new round of price rises — petrol, diesel, taxi and bus fares, rail rates — and the probability of higher food prices before the bumper harvest brings prices down, suggest inflation will average at least 23% this year. With a real interest rate of 5%-6%, the implication is that bank lending rates are not likely to fall much from current levels of around 30%-31% until early in 1997.

The good news is that, after falling 3% last year, real GDP should grow at least 6% in 1996 as it rebounds from the 1995 drought. Mining will have a reasonable year, too, though it is being squeezed by government's surprising determination to cling to an overvalued exchange rate.

The IMF will have difficulty with Tsumba's monetary targets. The governor is predicting real growth of over 6% and inflation of more than 20% with money supply growth contained at 22%. The numbers don't add up since inflation of 22% and real GDP growth of 6% point to monetary expansion of at least 28% — probably more.

Something will have to give.

Zimbabwe: Anti-White Remarks Said Discouraging Western Investors

MB2204203796 Johannesburg *SAPA* in English
1547 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BULAWAYO April 22 *SAPA*
— Racial and inflammatory remarks against whites

by government officials and black pressure groups were discouraging western businesses from investing in Zimbabwe, ZIANA [ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY] news agency on Monday quoted an economist saying.

Companies in at least six European countries or American states had withheld investments because of "mixed signals" and put their money in neighbouring countries, Eric Bloch said.

"They listen to radical sentiments from Zimbabwe and decide to go elsewhere," he said, referring to investors from the Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Britain and the United States.

White-owned companies have been the principal targets of racism claims by black pressure groups and senior politicians who accuse them of oppressing blacks.

President Robert Mugabe has accused some whites of economic sabotage by illegally taking profits out of the

country through transfer pricing, unbundling and re-invoicing deals.

An indigenous business development centre recently claimed it had evidence the country's white tobacco farmers had siphoned ZD3.4 billion [Zimbabwean dollars] out of the country.

Bloch said Zimbabwe, with unemployment at more than 40 percent, was in danger of losing scarce direct investment if the inflammatory remarks were not toned down. "Investors are being invited to Zimbabwe, but they feel bad when they are subjected to inflammatory remarks. They say 'we are being told to come and at the same time accused of oppressing the country's people,'" Bloch said.

Whites, who make up one percent of Zimbabwe's 10.5 million people, have historically been in control of the economy.

Cote d'Ivoire**Cote d'Ivoire: New Sierra Leonean President, Rebel Leader Hold Talks**

AB2204212896 Abidjan La Chaine Une Television Network in French 2000 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Peace negotiations on Sierra Leone began in Yamoussoukro this afternoon for the first time between Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, the newly elected president following the 15 March elections, and Foday Sankoh, leader of the Revolutionary United Front. The summit began under the chairmanship of the head of state, President Henri Konan Bedie. [passage omitted]

Cote d'Ivoire: Chief of Defense Staff Addresses Military Modernization

AB1704211296 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 17 Apr 96 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday, Navy Commander Lassana Timite, the chief of defense staff, held a meeting with army officers. The meeting took place at the National Gendarmerie School's communications room. The main purpose of this working session, which was presided over by Defense Minister Bandama Ngatta, was to "convey the head of state's directives to the various service chiefs" so as to enable them perform their duties better.

He said this is so "because my ambition is to adapt our armed forces to tomorrow's Cote d'Ivoire, to modernize the Armed Forces, and thus strengthen cohesion among its members." [passage omitted]

[Abidjan LA VOIE in French on 17 April on page 4 adds the following: "The Armed Forces of Cote d'Ivoire [FANCI] is not a place for incompetent and lazy people." This was stated by Commodore Lassana Timite. He told them of his principles and work method. According to him, the top military officers must henceforth demonstrate cohesion, rigor, imagination, and dignity in view of their present lax attitude toward work.]

Cote d'Ivoire: President Signs Decrees on Transfer of State Shares

AB1704125296 Abidjan La Chaine Une Television Network in French 2000 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon presentation by the Finance and Economy Ministry and after deliberation by government, the head of state, His Excellency Mr. Henri Konan Bedie, the president of the Republic, signed seven decrees today, 16 April.

The first decree is on the ratification of the loan agreement, meant for funding the private sector development support program and granted by the International Development Association, IDA. The aim of this program is to permit the emergence of a dynamic and enterprising private sector, promote profitable and high performance economic activities, and to significantly enhance Cote d'Ivoire's exports in a sanitized legal and administrative environment.

The highlights of this policy are, among others, the improvement of the functioning of the judicial system, rationalization of the customs procedures, completion of the liberalization of the maritime transport sector, promotion of exports, and strengthening of competitiveness. This loan, worth 123.9 million Special Drawing Rights, or 91.5 billion, CFA granted for a 40-year period with a 10-year grace period, is subjected to an undertaking commission of 0.50 percent at most per annum and a service commission of 0.75 percent per year.

The second decree is on the transfer of 22,000 state shares in the capital of Chocodi Company to Barry Company Limited at the cost of 22,000 CFA francs per share, or a total amount of 485.1 million CFA francs.

The third decree is on the transfer of 23,250 state shares in CIPRA [expansion unknown] company to Guillaume Marc Animal Nutrition Company at the cost of 20,000 CFA francs per share, or a total of 465 million CFA francs on one hand, and, on the other, the transfer of 1,500 state shares in the CIPRA Company to the company's staff at the cost of 20,000 CFA per share, or a total of 30 million CFA francs.

The fourth decree is on the transfer of state shares in the capital of CIVOM [Ivorian Maritime Company] company to natural or legal persons that are original shareholders. This involves 6,400 shares at the price of 225,000 CFA francs per share, or a total of 1.44 billion CFA francs; 400 of the company's shares to be transferred to its staff through the Abidjan Stock Exchange [BVA]. The transfer price is fixed at 225,000 per share for a nominal share value of 100,000 CFA francs. Also 3,000 shares will be sold out to the general public through the BVA and the price per share is fixed at 225,000 CFA francs per share for a nominal value of 100,000 CFA francs per share.

The fifth decree is on the transfer of state shares in the Peches et Froid de Cote d'Ivoire, PFCI, fisheries and cold storage company under the following modalities: 4,290 shares to the PFCI company at the unitary price of 40,000 per share, or for a total amount of 171.6 billion CFA francs; 250 of the company's shares to its personnel at 40,000 CFA francs per share, or for a total amount of 10 million CFA francs.

The sixth decree is on the transfer of 70,748 state shares in the SACO [African Cocoa Company] company to Barry S.A company at 20,000 CFA francs per share, or a total amount of 1,214,960,000 CFA francs.

The seventh decree is on the transfer of the assets of Domaine Heveicole de Cavaly, DHE-Cavaly rubber plantations estate to the Commonwealth Development Corporation to the tune of 2.61 billion CFA francs.

Liberia

Liberia: NPFL-LPC Fighting Ongoing in Maryland County

AB2204182796 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 22 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Just as it looks as if peace was returning to Liberian capital, Monrovia, after two weeks of bloody faction fighting, it is being revealed today that clashes have been raging for the last week in Maryland County between the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] and the Liberian Peace Council [LPC]. The area where they have been fighting is close to the border with the Ivory Coast [Cote d'Ivoire]. Our Monrovia correspondent, Jonathan Peleye, telexed this report:

Speaking at a press conference today, the NPFL leader, Charles Taylor, who appeared unusually jittery, said that the fighting had been raging for nearly a week. Taylor claimed that LPC troops crossed into Maryland County by the Ivorian border town of Tai which shelters thousands of Liberian refugees. Taylor refused to elaborate but added that the situation was serious and that the NPFL were handling it with care.

There has been no comment yet from the LPC leader, George Boley, or any of his supporters but officials of the joint cease-fire monitoring commission confirmed that fighting had flared up during the past week around towns close to the Ivorian border. However, they could not confirm NPFL allegations that the LPC passed through Tai because, as one ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] soldier put it, the whole area is infested by fighters from the two warring factions.

Fresh reports reaching Monrovia today claim that further clashes had erupted two days ago, forcing more refugees to flee across the border to the Ivorian town of Tabou. NPFL reinforcements have now been sent into the area from neighboring Grand Gedeh County. What triggered this latest flare-up in the long-running and apparently insoluble battle between Taylor and Boley remains unclear. However, the fighting follows the clashes in Monrovia during which Boley's LPC sided

with Roosevelt Johnson's Krahn militiamen against the combined forces of the NPFL, ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia]-K, and the police.

Nigeria

Nigeria: Government Meets With Opposition Coalition in Lagos

AB2204194196 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 22 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nigeria's National Reconciliation Committee [NRC] is in Lagos today for meetings with the prodemocracy opposition coalition, Nadeco [National Democratic Coalition], and talks with Yoruba leaders, the most prominent of whom, Moshood Abiola, is in detention facing treason charges. The committee was set up by General Abacha to resolve the political crisis Nigeria has been facing since the scrapping of the 1993 presidential elections. And the committee is touring the country, holding public meetings to hear people's grievances. Next week, the committee is due to go to Port Harcourt to talk to MOSOP, the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, nine of whose members were hanged in November last year. The executions led to Nigeria's expulsion from the Commonwealth and the imposition of international sanctions. Earlier today, our reporter, Hillary Anderson, spoke to the chairman of the reconciliation committee, Chief Akinyele, and she asked him if people were happy to air their grievances in public.

[Begin recording] [Akinyele] They speak their minds freely and we even encourage them to do so; and when we get to any state capital where we are listening to the grievances of the people, we are not in a hurry and if somebody rises to make his own presentation, we do not hurry him out. We do not say you have only three minutes. We just relax and we listen attentively to whoever has any cause for grievances.

[Anderson] But how do you expect people to take the whole idea of reconciliation seriously when for example, the people you are meeting with today, Nadeco people, are frequently getting arrested?

[Akinyele] No, these people are arrested because they are offenders. You cannot say you are going through a course of reconciliation and say anybody who commits any crime does so with impunity. It is not done anywhere in the world and what we are reconciling now is not a problem of today. Some of the problems are 20 years old; some 35 years old — as old as the Federal

Republic of Nigeria; and let me add: There is nobody today who is in detention, who has not committed one crime or the other.

[Anderson] What signs have you been given that your recommendations are being taken seriously?

[Akinyele] Our recommendations, so far as they are reasonable, appropriate, and necessary, will be taken very seriously and that is why I consider this job the most important national assignment I will ever hold in my life.

[Anderson] How far do you think the government is prepared to go? What do you think it is prepared to concede on? Why and what and when? Not small things; I am talking about fundamental things.

[Akinyele, interrupting] Thank you very much. Now, you hit it. Concessions. The government is going to grant concessions — they are compromises, they are the give and take, they are the understanding and maturity on both sides.

[Anderson] Give me one concession which you think there might be some movement on.

[Akinyele] Well, people complain of bad roads.

[Anderson] No, I am not talking about roads; I am talking about fundamental political issues like maybe assure the transition process or some of these other complaints — the release of Abiola.

[Akinyele] The release of Abiola is what we are considering; is what the government is considering. You understand it? But in my view, from the way I see things, the government is ready to release Chief Moshood Abiola as soon as the government is convinced that the time is most appropriate to do so.

[Anderson] A lot of people have talked about your work and the work of the national reconciliation committee and look at it in a cynical way and say that it is a time-buying exercise.

[Akinyele] Cynics felt that it is a time-buying exercise. I do not blame them. It has happened before; it can happen again, but on this occasion, I want all Nigerians and the Western press to put a measure of confidence and faith in the head of state and commander in chief. He is very sincere and serious about this question of reconciliation. [end recording]

Nigeria: NECON Chairman Interviewed on Transition to Civilian Rule

AB2204220196 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the National Electoral Commission of Nigeria [NECON], Chief Sumner Karibi Dagogo-Jack, has enjoined officials of the commission and the general public to be optimistic about the electoral processes toward putting in place a democratic government in 1998. Chief Dagogo-Jack who stated this at a meeting with state administrative secretaries in Abuja, said NECON will strengthen its operational facilities in elections ahead. Correspondent Yusuf Adi reports on the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Adi] The meeting was convened to undertake a postmortem of the local council elections nationwide, held last month. NECON chairman Dagogo-Jack said the administrative secretaries are expected to share experiences in specific areas. They include logistics, electoral materials, personnel, transportation, funding, timing, and geophysical factors. Chief Dagogo-Jack said the commission will expect a comprehensive report that will avert the minor shortcomings of previous elections. He then made clarifications on some aspects of the local council polls held last month. The voters' turnout of 24.4 million, representing 59.53 percent of the total registrable population, is commendable. On this qualification, Chief Dagogo-Jack, emphasized that the provisions of Decree 6 of 1996 was strictly adhered to. He said in places where elections were inconclusive or not held at all, arrangements for by-elections are being worked out. He also said electoral tribunals and electoral appeal tribunals are also in place. Chief Dagogo-Jack emphasized the need for optimism to make the transition a huge success.

[Dagogo-Jack] We should not tow the path of pessimism while attending to national priorities. We should always remain optimistic about the elections. We should look beyond the immediate [words indistinct] of this government and work toward evolving collective positions based on realities.

[Adi] The NECON chairman said the commission is putting together guidelines for the registration of political parties as well as delineation of constituencies and senatorial districts in the next stage of the transition. The meeting had in attendance the national commissioners, state administrative secretaries, and directors of the commission. [end recording]

Nigeria: Several Senior Army Officers Reportedly Dismissed, Retired

AB1904181396 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] There have been reports of a big shakeup in the Nigerian Armed Forces. It's all rather mysterious, but it is claimed that a lot of very high-ranking soldiers have been dismissed, retired or otherwise put out to grass. No official announcement has been made, but THIS DAY newspaper is carrying the story. On the line to Lagos, Elizabeth Ohene asked THIS DAY's editor Enyola Bello if according to their information the shakeup had already taken effect?

[Begin recording] [Bello] From my sources, from family sources, from the people concerned, yes, it has taken effect although there has not been any formal announcement from military high command.

[Ohene] And did they ever give any reasons for these things, for retiring officers prematurely as it is?

[Bello] We are hardly told why things take place in Nigeria. So, it is just one of those things. The people are not informed. The government will just come and say so and so has happened. But why has it taken place, why this is happening, we've not been informed, we've not been told. It is not the first time, I mean, it is really within the normal circle of things. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Nigeria: Radio Profiles New Sultan of Sokoto

AB2204100096 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A new Sultan of Sokoto has been named. He is Alhaji Muhamadu Maccido.

Sarkin Kudu [traditional chieftaincy title] Sokoto. The appointment of the new sultan was announced by the Sokoto traditional kingmakers today in Sokoto after a meeting at the Sultan Bello Mosque. This latest development from the sultanate came barely 24 hours after the former sultan, Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki, was dethroned as the 18th Sultan of Sokoto.

By his appointment, Alhaji Muhamadu Maccido became the 19th sultan. Alhaji Maccido is the eldest son of the late Sir Abubakar III, who was the 17th Sultan of Sokoto. The new sultan has led a distinguished career in the public service, having held several appointments. And, a seasoned administrator, Alhaji Muhamadu Maccido served as commissioner in the health and agricultural ministries in the former Northwestern State between 1968 and 1972. He was chairman, local government Civil Service Commission, between 1976 and 1977. Alhaji Maccido was appointed presidential liaison officer for Sokoto State under the Shagari administration in 1983. He was an inner member of the Sokoto Emirate Council until the council was dissolved in 1983.

Correspondent Matthews Otalike reports that the Sokoto state administrator, Colonel Yakubu Muazu, and members of his executive council, as well as the emir of Gwandu were present at today's announcement of Alhaji Muhamadu Maccido as the new Sultan of Sokoto.

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